

formerly a good gharial habitat. The man survived the injuries and died only in 1979.

The above incidents, and their rarity, confirm Malcolm Smith's statement, and also indicate how a human death in a crocodilian habitat can be interpreted as being 'only' due to crocodilian attack. Had the son not rescued his father in the instance described

by us, the old man would have drowned as he was unconscious, probably from shock. This would have led to the gharial being blamed for the man's death and perhaps even accused of eating him.

We would be interested to learn of other authenticated instances of gharial attacks on man.

CENTRAL CROCODILE BREEDING &
MANAGEMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE,
RAJENDRANAGAR ROAD,
HYDERABAD 500 264,
April 30, 1981.

H. R. BUSTARD
L. A. K. SINGH

REFERENCES

- BUSTARD, H. R. & CHOUDHURY, B. C. (1980): Parental care in the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus* Schneider) and management implications. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 77 (1): 64-69.
- SMITH, M. (1931): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma. Reptilia and Amphibia. Volume I—Loricata, Testudines. Taylor and Francis, London.

17. A NOTE ON THE SLENDER CORAL SNAKE, *CALLOPHIS MELANURUS*

During the course of snake collection in district Dhar, we obtained specimens of the coral snake *Callophis melanurus*.

Specimens were collected in the early morning during the months of November and December 1980. Collection during morning hours indicates that the snakes are most active during night hours. The collected specimens measured 20 to 30 cm in length and 4 to 5 cm in circumference. This snake is unique in appearance. The head and neck are black in colour having two distinct spots on the top of the head and rest of the body is light pink in colour. The tail has two black rings—one ring at the tail base and other at the tail tip. Poison fangs are well developed. Males are longer than females.

For studying the general biology of the snakes, specimens were kept in large aquaria

with a surface of sand. The animals burrowed into the sand, just keeping their heads above the sand. Excited animals curled their tail up and waved it. A few petridishes were kept filled with water for drinking purpose. Worm snakes *Typhlops braminus* were provided as food. Coral snakes fed on worm snakes.

In Maharashtra it is believed that if this snake bites at night, the victim will die before day break. Hence it is known as "Raath" (= night).

So far this snake has not been reported from Madhya Pradesh. Hence, this report is first from (Dhar) Madhya Pradesh.

Presence of Coral snake, *Callophis melanurus* at Dhar district suggests that these snakes are not only located in the regions mentioned above, but also in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh.

LECTURER,
P. G. DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
GOVT. COLLEGE, DHAR (M.P.).

TEJ PRAKASH VYAS

SCHOOL OF STUDIES IN ZOOLOGY,
VIKRAM UNIVERSITY,
UJJAIN 456 010 (M.P.),
March 25, 1981.

(MRS.) MADHU VYAS

18. ON A COLLECTION OF COBITID LOACHES OF THE GENUS
NOEMACHEILUS VAN HASSELT FROM POONCH VALLEY
(JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

Cobitid loaches of the genus *Noemacheilus* van Hasselt (sub-family: Noemacheilinae) are typical rheophilous teleosts which prefer pure-oxygen-rich waters with sandy or gravelly bottoms and are met with in the rivers and streams of mountainous Asia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Europe, Turkey, the Transcaucasian region and England. During the course of extensive collections of aquatic fauna undertaken by me in Poonch Valley from 1971 to 1973 six species of *Noemacheilus* were collected, out of which three species are being reported from Poonch Valley for the first time.

well as Ceylon (Day 1878). Singh (1964) recorded it from the Doon Valley while Khan & Kamal (1979) reported this species from River Kosi (Bihar). There is no record of this species from Kashmir Valley so far and the only previous report of its occurrence in Jammu & Kashmir State is by Das & Nath (1965) and Das & Nath (1971), who reported it from Poonch Valley. Subsequently, Malhotra, Jyoti & Dutta (1975) recorded it from the fish ponds at Gadigarh (Jammu).

N. gracilis Day is a high altitude cobitid which inhabits the head waters of the Indus

Species	Locality	Previous record from Poonch Valley
1. <i>Noemacheilus botia</i> (Ham.)	Ponch River	Das & Nath (1971)
2. <i>N. gracilis</i> Day	Poonch River and Sooran torrent	Sharma & Sharma (1974)
3. <i>N. kashmirensis</i> Hora	Poonch River and Sooran torrent	Sharma & Sharma (1974)
*4. <i>N. rupicola</i> McCl.	Poonch River and canals	—
*5. <i>N. marmoratus</i> (Heckel)	Sooran torrent	—
*6. <i>N. vittatus</i> (Heckel)	Sooran torrent	—

* New Record.

Noemacheilus botia (Ham.) occurs in Sind, Punjab, Assam, the upper regions of the Ganges and Jumna, the Nurbudha, as

(Day 1878). Silas (1960) and Das (1965) reported it from Kashmir Valley, while Sharma & Sharma (1974) recorded it from Poonch